AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for producing porous glass body by a vapor phase synthesis method in which glass raw material gas undergoes a hydrolytic reaction or an oxidation reaction in flames, said method comprising:

using a ~~of the~~ glass particles synthesizing burner of a type comprising ~~defined in Claim 1; and~~

a center port group including:

a raw material gas jet port;

a combustible gas jet port; and

an oxygen gas jet port disposed outside the raw material gas jet port and combustible gas jet port,

wherein an outer wall of said oxygen gas jet port of said center port group more protrudes toward a head of said burner than an inner wall of said oxygen gas jet port, and a protruding length of said outer wall is not shorter than 30 times as large as a gap between an inner surface of the outer wall and an outer surface of the inner wall of said oxygen gas jet port:[[.]]

jetting the oxygen gas from said oxygen gas jet port of said center port group, with a flow rate which is not lower than 1.2 times as high as an average flow rate of gases jetted from ports inner than said oxygen gas jet port, the average flow rate being total flow rate of inner gases relative to the jet ports sectional area.

7. (Original) The porous glass body producing method according to Claim 6, wherein said flow rate of oxygen gas jetted from said oxygen gas jet port of said center port group is not lower than 1.35 times as high as said average flow rate of gases jetted from ports inner than said oxygen gas jet port.

8. (Original) The porous glass body producing method according to Claim 6, wherein said flow rate of oxygen gas jetted from said oxygen gas jet port of said center port group is not lower than 3.0 m/s.

9. (Original) The porous glass body producing method according to Claim 6, wherein said flow rate of oxygen gas jetted from said oxygen gas jet port of said center port group is not higher than 50 m/s.

10. (Original) The porous glass body producing method according to Claim 6, wherein time for all gases inner than said outer wall to pass inside said outer wall is not longer than 50 milliseconds.